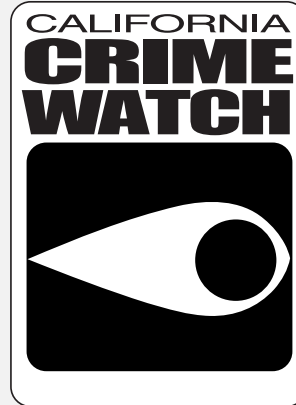


Do not forget the elderly and other people who might be especially lonely during the holidays. Your local Neighborhood Watch group might want to sponsor a holiday event for them. If you're interested in forming a Neighborhood Watch group, contact your local law enforcement agency.

REMEMBER...

It's O.K. not to drink, but if you do, stay within your safe alcohol limits, and never drink and drive.



Courtesy of

Office of Criminal Justice Planning
1130 K Street, Suite 300, Sacramento, CA 95814
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For more information on this program in your
community, contact:

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
GRAY DAVIS
GOVERNOR



HOLIDAY CRIME PREVENTION

OFFICE OF CRIMINAL
JUSTICE PLANNING

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
GRAY DAVIS
GOVERNOR



Holidays are a special time of year. Unfortunately, busy people become careless and some people are especially vulnerable to theft and other crimes at this time.

THE FOLLOWING TIPS CAN MAKE YOUR HOLIDAYS SAFER AND HAPPIER:

OUT AND ABOUT

- Stay alert to your surroundings and people around you.
- Lock your car and close your windows even if you're gone for a few minutes. Lock your packages in the trunk.
- When waiting for public transportation or rides from friends, do so in a busy, well-lit place.
- Teach your children to ask a store clerk for help should they become separated from you while shopping. Children should never go to a parking lot or to your car alone.
- Avoid carrying large amounts of cash. Use checks or credit cards when possible to pay for purchases.
- If your credit cards are lost, stolen or misused, notify the issuers immediately

- Purses and wallets may become targets for crime in crowded shopping areas, bus stops, on public transportation, so be extra cautious with them.
- To have freedom of motion, clear visibility, and to avoid mishaps, don't overload yourself with packages.

AT HOME

- Lock your doors and windows even if you'll only be away for a few minutes, and give the impression that your house is occupied by leaving on lights and a radio or a television.
- Do not put large displays of holiday gifts in view of your windows or doors.
- Use an automatic timer for your lights if you're not home during the holidays. Have a neighbor watch your house and collect your mail and newspapers.
- New gifts should be marked immediately with your driver's license, or California identification number. Ask your local law enforcement agency for information about Operation Identification.

- Make sure your holiday tree doesn't block doors or passage ways.
- Have your tree mounted on a sturdy base so that small children or pets cannot topple it.
- To keep your tree green, place it in wet sand or in water.
- Make sure that holiday lights are in good working order.
- Never burn wrapping paper in your fireplace.

WITH YOUR NEIGHBORS

When hosting a party:

- Have non-alcoholic beverages available for party guests.
- Use a jigger when serving alcoholic beverages rather than pouring straight from a bottle.
- Find alternative transportation for intoxicated guests.
- Never drink and drive.

When going to a party:

- Know your safe limit and remember, only time eliminates alcohol from your body.
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